



## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

June 22, 2006

# News Release

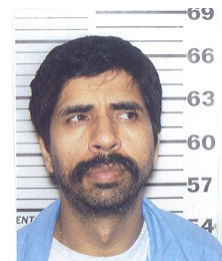
### **A murderer, 4 rapists among 71 deported by ICE** *More than 600 criminals deported from area this fiscal year*

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers deported to Mexico yesterday 71 illegal aliens, including a convicted murderer and four rapists.

The five convicted criminals were among 71 illegal aliens deported to Mexico and seven others transferred to Oakdale, La., for upcoming removal to Guatemala and El Salvador. One Salvadoran is a documented member of the violent MS-13 gang. Of the 71 transported to the U.S.-Mexico border, 31 had criminal convictions for such crimes as: forgery, drug offenses, theft, escape from custody, drunken driving, aiding an accomplice, criminal sexual conduct and murder.

In the six-month period beginning Oct. 1, ICE deported 1,423 illegal aliens to 55 different countries from the five-state area that includes: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. Of that number, 627 had criminal convictions in addition to being immigration law violators. During fiscal year 2005, ICE deported 3,060 illegal aliens from the same geographic area, 1,368 of them with criminal convictions. Nationally, ICE removed 167,700 aliens in fiscal year 2005; of that number, 84,300 were criminal aliens.

Among those deported yesterday was Eliseo Espinosa-Mata, 41, a citizen of Mexico, who illegally entered the U.S. in 1978. He shot his roommate in the back of the head as he slept in a Minneapolis apartment they shared on LaSalle Ave. in 1982. Espinosa-Mata fled the Twin Cities, but surrendered nearly 14 years later to Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies. He was found guilty of second-degree murder in November 1998 in Hennepin County District Court and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Espinosa-Mata was released from prison June 6, 2006 and turned over to ICE for deportation. ICE agents routinely work with prisons to ensure that criminal aliens are released to ICE custody after they serve their sentences.



Espinosa-Mata

Four of those deported to Mexico yesterday pleaded guilty in December 2004 to third-degree criminal sexual conduct, which is defined by Minnesota statute as engaging in sexual penetration using force or coercion. The four, who were each sentenced to 36 months in prison, are Fidel Ramirez-Alcantar, 22; Javier Pena-Cantoran, 25; Jose Luis Aguilera-Lemus, 22; and Daniel Gonzalez-Esparza, 20. All had illegally entered the United States. Court documents filed in Olmsted County District Court describe the June 2004 incident in which the four men sexually assaulted a woman in a Rochester, Minn., apartment while the victim's 3-year-old son was in the room.



Ramirez-Alcantar



Pena-Cantoran



Aguilera-Lemus



Gonzalez-Esparza

“ICE focuses on locating and arresting criminal aliens in our communities, and on restoring integrity to our nation’s legal immigration system,” said Mark Cangemi, special agent in charge for ICE’s Bloomington office. “We proudly stand by our record and will continue our work each day to help keep communities safe.”

These removals are part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan by the Department of Homeland Security to secure America’s borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*